

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A user installation for interfacing a television or like device with a video broadcast multi-channel feed signal, the installation comprising:

a connector for connection to a video broadcast multi-channel feed receiver installation,

a splitter unit attached to said connector for splitting incoming signals from said connector into a video feed signal and a signal received from a terrestrial network, and for directing outgoing signals for said terrestrial network to said connector,

said terrestrial network signal providing a return link to support user interaction from said interfaced device.

2. The user installation of claim 1, wherein said video broadcast multi-channel feed signal comprises a satellite signal.

3. The user installation of claim 1, wherein said video broadcast multi-channel feed signal comprises a terrestrial signal.

4. The user installation of claim 1, further operable to provide wide area network (WAN) support so that said connected satellite TV installation, when supplied with a terrestrial antenna, can serve as a WAN node.

5. The user installation of claim 4, wherein said WAN support substantially fulfils the requirements of IEEE standard 802.16 or the requirements of IEEE standard 802.20.

6. The user installation of claim 1, further operable to provide Hotspot support so that said connected satellite TV installation, when supplied with a terrestrial antenna, can provide a local hotspot.

7. The user installation of claim 6, wherein said hotspot support substantially fulfils the requirements of IEEE standard 802.11.

8. The user installation of claim 1, comprising set top box (STB) functionality, WAN functionality, and splitter combiner functionality.

9. The user installation of claim 1, further comprising a residential gateway comprising interface functionality for at least one of a LAN, an Internet enabled device, and a voice over IP enabled device.

10. The user installation of claim 9, wherein said residential gateway and a set top box functionality are integrated within a single housing.

11. The user installation of claim 8, further comprising hotspot management functionality.

12. The user installation of claim 8, comprising master STB functionality
5 for connecting a plurality of set top boxes.

13. The user installation of claim 1, comprising residential gateway functionality with local area network (LAN) support for supporting a plurality of household communication enabled devices over a LAN.

14. The user installation of claim 13, wherein said LAN support comprises Ethernet support.

15. The user installation of claim 13, wherein said LAN support is over a co-ax cable.

16. The user installation of claim 13, wherein said LAN support comprises wireless network support.

17. The user installation of claim 1, wherein said connector is adapted to use an existing co-ax cable or a twisted pair for sending outgoing signals.

18. The user installation of claim 1, wherein said connector is adapted to use Ethernet for sending outgoing signals.